

X-FORCE #123

Right. Have we got a title for this yet? If not, I'd like to call it TICK TOCK because all the action takes place within the elongated architecture of a second, or at least the time it takes for the second hand of clock to travel from the land of Tick to the far off environs of Tock.

PAGE ONE

1

We're in the main living area of X-Force. Nice big shot taking up top half of the page of our team having a little R&R. TV, books, whatever. As long as it isn't good for the mind.

I'd like you to put in some prominent position a clock with some kind of recognizable face. Maybe it's an authentic X-FORCE CLOCK (available at all good stores now!) because this clock and time itself will play an important part in what we might laughingly term this month's story.

But what's this?

Doop is in the corner of the room. Its back to us. What's going on? Is Doop sulking?

2

Nope. Close on Doop. Like a lot of stunted green blob creatures of indeterminate gender, Doop sometimes suffers from skin that is both dry and greasy, leading to embarrassing ZITS. And usually they spring up right before a party, or a battle against superhuman tyrants.

So right here we're close to Doop who is floating in front of a MIRROR and is about to - yes, we've all done it, Jesus, even the Queen has probably done it (or at least got a lady in waiting to do it for her!) - Doop's about to squeeze the puss out of that bad boy.

3

CLOSE DETAIL OF THE CLOCK. Let's say it is one second to noon. The second hand moving.

WE ART IN SFX: TICK

4

AND NOW A VERY CLOSE SHOT OF DOOP... Eyes show alarm as it wonders just what it is he is about to squeeze out...

PAGE TWO AND THREE

Right. I'd like one of those nice big double page spreads now. I see that Grant has had them and I think it's high time I had one too.

My god. X-Force has faced some tough tests but none like this.

To the left of the spread we see Doop. He's squeezed his zit.

But what is radiating from it is like nothing on earth. It is a tsunami of reality-bending, dimensional-challenging weirdness, blowing through and blowing away the assorted members of X-FORCE... whose weird and hallucinatory trajectory takes them right across into the second page of this spread...

Make this pretty heavy too. These guys are really being blown away.

Roll title and credits...

TICK TOCK
Peter Milligan - writer
Mike Allred - artist
Etc.

PAGE FOUR

1

Doop looks at the room. It's an X-Force Marie Celeste. All the food and books and TVs or whatever it was that the guys were doing is just as it was.

But there is no sign of any of X-Force.

2

CLOSE on Doop. Hand over its mouth.

Oops!

3

It looks at its reflection in the mirror. The little cavity where the zit has been squeezed.

And has an idea. It might be a long shot but what is there to lose (besides our entire readership)?

4

CLOSE.

Doop is working a FINGER right INTO THE ZIT HOLE!

PAGE FIVE

1

Right. And now things start to get a little strange.

We seem now to be INSIDE DOOP. We can see its finger and part of its hand coming in through the zit hole.

2

Cut back to outside... and the process is continuing. Doop now has an arm in

through the enlarged zit hole.

3

CUT BACK Inside Doop. Incredibly, one of its eyes can be seen coming in through the zit hole. The plucky little creature is somehow turning itself outside in... WE SHOULD SEE THE STRAIN AND EFFORT THIS IS PUTTING THE LITTLE DOOP THROUGH.

4

Cut back outside as Doop DISAPPEARS INTO ITSELF... maybe just a shimmer or a ghost image of where Doop was... the X-FORCE CLOCK SHOULD BE SEEN ON THE WALL...

5

CLOSE ON THE CLOCK. The time is the same... the second hand still has not moved...

PAGE SIX

1

WE'RE NOW INSIDE DOOP LAND. And it is a strange place indeed. And pretty horrific. A kind of Doop sensibility meets Heironymous Bosch. A huge vista spreads out before Doop. And it seems to be teeming with millions - or an artistic approximation thereof - of Doop like creatures. But these are strange misshapen Doops. These are Doops from the dark side of the id.

2

On Doop. Biting its nails or showing some other sign of trepidation.

3

Then it looks up. High above is the zit hole... through which the clock - set at the same time - hovers like a strange orbiting planet.

PAGE SEVEN

1

CUT. We seem to be in some kind of INNER CITY. Some poor run down area. There are a lot of YOUNG BLACK GUYS coming towards us. This can be pretty hallucinatory . . . dark . . . these guys are definitely threatening . . .

2

Pull back... we see that PHAT is here. But he isn't seeing these guys as his brothers. He is scared witless by them. Backing away...

3

He turns and runs . . .

4

But now there are more BLACK PEOPLE coming the other way. Make it nightmarish. The dark night, the shadows, and the black people merging into one . . .

PAGE EIGHT

1

CUT BACK TO DOOP. This can be pretty violent. He is trying to wade his way through the legions of EVIL DOOPS.

2

Up ahead he sees a kind of WINDOW or SCREEN. Maybe like a segment from a stained glass window. On it we see Phat's scared face. Doop is trying to get to it.

3

AN EVIL DOOP SINKS ITS TEETH INTO DOOP'S ARM. Doop screaming in pain . . .

4

And then thuds his finger in the evil Doop's eye... making him let go...

5

He leaps towards the tortured image of Phat...

PAGE NINE

1

Here we see DOOP arriving in the nightmare ghetto land that Phat has found himself in. Doop is a giant here, looming over Phat and the fleeing black guys.

2

Doop grabs Phat in his hand -- like a little green King Kong.

3

And now Doop pops Phat screaming into its mouth!

PAGE TEN

1

CUT. We retain our nightmarish theme.

We're in a kind of Borgesian, Escher-like LIBRARY. Long dark corridors leading back into terrible nothingness.

Myles is pulling books off the shelves. He's going crazy . . .there should be some books open around him.

2

We see why. He's holding TWO BOOKS. All the pages are blank. If we could we should see more books with blank pages all around him... MYLES IS CLIMBING UP THE SIDE OF THE SHELVES TO REACH SOME HIGHER BOOKS...

3

And now the books collapse around him as he falls... the empty pages like dry

leaves fluttering about him...

4

From the pile of blank books that swamp him he looks up . . . from the corridor comes some STRANGE giant demon VERSION OF HIS FATHER. WITH A CANE. DEAD EYES. HE IS NAKED. AND THERE IS WRITING... INDECIPHERABLE TEXT... IN DOOP LANGUAGE MAYBE . . . SCRAWLED ALL OVER HIM...

PAGE ELEVEN

1

Myles screams silently and tries to clamber out of the books. The figure of the father-monster is gaining on him.

2

CLOSE on Myles... seeing a book in front of him... DOOP is on the cover...

3

Weird shot as Myles opens the page and something HUGE SHOOTS OUT OF IT...

4

It's DOOP. Like a POP-OUT DOOP from the Doop book. Looming above Myles...

5

Doop sucks in... and sucks in Myles...

PAGE TWELVE

1

It's DOOP now in the library. Myles has gone. Doop is looking down curiously at one of the BOOKS lying in the pile around him.

2

He picks it up and we see the cover; SPIKEY CROSS-DRESSING. And on the cover a big pic of THE SPIKE dressed in women's clothes. Let's make this very sexy and very strange.

3

Doop looks around. This gets worse. Or better, depending on your politics.

LOTS OF TINY DOOPS DRESSED AS WOMEN ARE CHARGING DOWN THE CORRIDOR TOWARDS HIM.

WE SHOULD SEE THE CLOCK IN THE ÔSKY' ABOVE...

4

DOOP'S POV: THE CLOCK: STILL SHOWING one second to noon but it's almost as though we see the second hand twitching as it tries eagerly to move to tock...

5

On Doop. What the hell? He tosses the Spikey Cross Dressing book into its mouth

with a kind of "what else can a Doop do?" shrug... or as close as someone with Doop's physiognomy can get to shrugging.

PAGE THIRTEEN

1

CUT. A desert scene. Desert full of scorched bones, Dali-eseque skeletons. There are A NUMBER OF BURNING SUNS IN THE SKY. And there is A figure - dark, we can't make him out - crawling towards us...

2

CLOSE ON THIS FIGURE. It's TIKE. He seems in a bad way. Burning up. THE SWEAT IS DRIPPING MADLY OFF OF HIM... but his face is bloated, as though there's a lot more fluid almost bursting to come out...

3

He looks down at his hands: the SWEAT IS FLOWING FROM HIS PALMS LIKE WATER, steaming... hot sweat...

4

We pull back and now we see him EXPLODING IN A BALL OF WARM SWEAT...

PAGE FOURTEEN

1

NOW THE DESERT has been transformed into a vile, sweaty sea... a sea of sweat and phlegm and bodily excretions... and Tike is drowning in it... gasping... waving his tired arms helpless out...

2

We move UNDER THE SEA OF SWEAT with Tike as he sinks... drowning in the awful sludge...

3

But now... what's this? He sees DOOP swimming powerfully towards him... Tike's eyes wide with surprise and hope...

PAGE FIFTEEN

1

CUT. We are in a huge room: all stainless steel and sharps edges. Clinical, a nightmarish warped OPERATING THEATER. Around the side of the room are kind of TRANSPARENT PLINTHS. Each contains some thing we cannot make out yet. In the middle of the room, small, vulnerable, her back to us, is a figure we recognize as Edie. She seems to have her hands to her face.

2

We move up to and around Edie and see that her hands are over her mouth.

Something is wrong. Her eyes show pain and confusion. THERE IS BLOOD TRICKLING FROM IN-BETWEEN HER FINGERS.

3

Edie drops her hands. Dark blood is coming from her mouth.

PAGE SIXTEEN

1

She crawls over to one of the weird transparent plinths. Inside it, suspended in the glass... is a grisly sight. A SEVERED TONGUE!

2

But now she looks down at the other plinths and we see that each one contains a severed tongue. Some fatter. Some redder. But each one a tongue. We are in the HALL OF TONGUES!

3

Going crazy... she runs down the rows of severed tongues. She's looking for her tongue! Where is it?

4

Up ahead... she sees a familiar figure, atop a plinth. It's Doop. Beckoning her towards him...

PAGE SEVENTEEN

1

Edie reaches the plinth with Doop. He points down to the tongue held inside it. She's smiling! She'd know her own tongue anywhere . . .

2

Doop hit the plinth, which shatters... Edie is catching her tongue . . .

3

CLOSE on Edie pushing her tongue back into her mouth...

4

CLOSE A smiling Edie - tongue in place, and we can see it - goes to talk, but . . .

5

CLOSE Doop. Finger to its mouth. Shhh!

PAGE EIGHTEEN

A BIG DRAMATIC FULL-

PAGE SHOT featuring the only member of our crew we haven't seen yet.

Guy Smith.

But Guy - and I have a feeling that this won't come as a complete surprise to you - is in trouble. He is buried up to his neck. And he is screaming. Face distorting with acute pain.

BECAUSE THERE ARE WHAT APPEAR TO BE INSECTS, crawling all over his face... he's powerless to get them off...

We should be far enough away not to be able to completely discern what kind of insects these are...

PAGE NINETEEN

1

CLOSER. And we see that these are not insects that are tormenting Guy but hundreds of tiny evil DEMON DOOPS. Biting, stabbing, scratching... in Guy's nostrils... getting into his eyes... his mouth... his eyes are slits... he's trying to open them...

2

A SHADOW FALLS OVER GUY'S FACE. He opens his pained eyes and looks up...

3

Reverse angle - looking up - so we see that Doop - the real non-demon Doop - is looming above Guy...

4

PULL AROUND. Doop has taken hold of Guy's head and is pulling at it with all his might trying to pull Guy out of the ground . . .

PAGE TWENTY

1

And something gives... Doop falls back...

2

Eeek! He has Guy's DECAPITATED HEAD in his hands. Staring at it. Guy's doesn't seem to be pained by being decapitated. He seems to be looking at Doop with something like gratitude. What a guy!

3

Doop looks around. There's THE CLOCK... second hand twitching . . . and also the APERTURE through which Doop entered Doop World.

4

Doop tucks Guy under his arm football-style and runs like a running back towards

the aperture...

PAGE TWENTY ONE

1

BACK TO HQ. Doop appears, in mid-air, emerging from himself, as though righting himself after being turned inside out ... the clock is right next to him ...

2

Doop - now fully formed and normal sticks a finger against the second hand, stopping its normal passage . . . WE SEE THAT DOOP'S ZIT, the one that started all the trouble, looks huge and full of puss. His other hand is about to squeeze it again . . .

3

WHOOSH! It all comes out. A blurred, amorphous puss-like amalgam of THE X-FORCE TEAM . . . spurting in a blurred mass from Doop's zit...

PAGE TWENTY TWO

1

X-Force reform in the HQ. THEY SHOULD BE IN EXACTLY THE SAME POSITION THAT THEY WERE IN just before Doop blew them all away by squeezing the poison from his zit.

2

Doop looks up at the clock. Finally the second hand flips over and the clock goes...

TOCK

3

Doop smiles at us in relief. Phew!

And his annoying zit seems to have vanished.

-END-